

Questions and Answers from Industry Day

30 April 2008

Updated May 13, 2008

Current A-E IDC Contracts:

1. Who are the firms that are currently under contract to provide A-E Services to TAC?

Response: Michael Baker Jr., Stanley Consultants and Jacobs Facilities

2. When will these contracts expire?

Response: Two expire in 2009 and the other in 2010

New A-E IDC Contracts:

3. Will TAC post awards of task orders on its website?

Response: A determination has not yet been made about posting the task order awards; however, the selected A-E firms from this solicitation will be notified as to which firm receives each task order award.

4. Will the Government release the names of the firms that submit a technical proposal for this acquisition?

Response: No, the Government will not release the names of firms that submit a technical response. The Government will release the names of the firms selected after the award is announced.

5. Will firms that propose as a Joint Venture or in a partnership relationship be evaluated differently than a firm that is a single entity?

Response: No, although the Government will evaluate the experience, past performance, and capabilities of each of the members of a Joint Venture or partnership in selecting the most qualified offeror(s). The Government will also consider whether the Joint Venture or partnership has a long-standing relationship or is a new entity.

6. Will firms that propose with subcontractors be evaluated differently than a firm that is a single entity?

Response: No, but it is the responsibility of the prime offeror to demonstrate that the subcontractor is a member of the offeror's team, how they fit into the team, and how the subcontractor's experience, past performance, and capabilities are relevant to the criteria in the synopsis. In this regard, the prime offeror should present whether it has a long-standing relationship with the subcontractor. It is also highly recommended that the prime offeror submit a subcontract agreement along with its technical proposal to demonstrate that the prime offeror has locked in this subcontractor as a team member.

7. Can firms change subcontractors once an award is made?

Response: Firms can request a change of any subcontractors that were identified during selection and negotiation, but the approval is at the discretion of the Government's Contracting Officer. Subcontractor substitutions must have at least the same qualifications, experience and capabilities as the firm submitted in the SF 330. If the firm does not possess these qualities, the Government may elect to not approve the substitution, and it shall be the responsibility of the selected firm to provide an acceptable substitution or maintain the originally approved subcontractor.

8. Will a firm be considered for award if they do not possess current experience and technical competence in the Experience Categories listed in the FedBizOpps announcement (A05, A06, H07, S05 and T04)?

Response: No. A firm must possess the experience and technical competence in these codes, either as part of its firm, from a Joint Venture or partnership relationship, or through a subcontractor. Failure to demonstrate this experience and technical competence in your technical proposal will result in your proposal being viewed as non-responsive and no evaluation will be conducted. Failure to provide a subcontractor agreement for firms that are using subcontractors to accomplish these categories will not result in your proposal being viewed as non-responsive. However, your proposal will not be as highly rated as firms who can demonstrate that they have these capabilities as part of its proposed team.

9. Are firms required to work on-site and in-country, either as the prime firm or with subcontractors, in all regions and areas within TAC's Area of Responsibility (AOR), including Iraq and Afghanistan to be considered for award?

Response: Yes. This does not intend to imply that a firm must have an office or have worked in all regions and areas of TAC's AOR to be considered. The intent is for firms to commit to working in all regions and areas so that we have complete coverage with the new A-E IDCs. Firms who make a conscious decision not to work in certain countries due to their current or future status will not be considered for this acquisition and its proposal will not be evaluated.

10. To be considered under this contract, is the firm required to have a minimum numbers of overseas offices?

Response: No.

11. Is the award of those IDCs intended for large US multi-national firms such as the three firms which are currently providing A/E services to TAC?

Response: No. The awards will be made to the firms (or partnerships or joint ventures, if an offeror is comprised of more than a single entity) that are ranked as the most highly qualified from the pre-selection and selection processes. These are firms that provide the best response to the criteria listed in the FedBizOpps announcement.

12. Is it TAC's intention to award all contracts to large businesses?

Response: No. The awards will be made to the firms (or partnerships or joint ventures, if an offeror is comprised of more than a single entity) that are ranked as the most highly qualified from the pre-selection and selection processes. These are firms that provide the best response to the criteria listed in the FedBizOpps announcement.

13. Regarding facility design for P12 Power generation and transmission distribution, is there a specific size/capacity?

Response: Specific issues such as these are addressed in the task orders that will be issued under the contracts to be awarded.

14. Regarding facility design for P02 petroleum and fuel (storage and distribution), is there a specific size/capacity? Are you talking about tank farms?

Response: Specific issues such as these are addressed in the task orders that will be issued under the contracts to be awarded.

15. Regarding facility design for R05 Refrigeration plants/systems is there a specific size/capacity? Are you talking about central chilled water system?

Response: Specific issues such as these are addressed in the task orders that will be issued under the contracts to be awarded.

16. Are the three firms currently under contract to provide A/E services to TAC eligible to propose under this contract?

Response: Yes, currently they are eligible.

17. Where can we find the specific descriptions and/or requirements of the function codes used for the personnel disciplines listed in Selection Criteria (b), i.e., project management (architect or engineer) (Function Code 40)?

Response: In accordance with Selection Criteria (b), as stated in the FedBizOpps announcement, each of the personnel matching the disciplines listed should be U.S. Licensed or Registered professionals. To clarify this point, all architects listed for Function Code 06, "Architecture," should be registered or licensed as Professional Architects in the United States. Similarly, each engineer should carry a U.S. based Professional Engineer license. For Function Codes such as Quality Control and Project Management, where the discipline can carry more than one registration or license, the Government is interested in the number of U.S. Licensed or Registered professionals irrespective of discipline affiliation.

18. If a firm competes as a Joint Venture, how do they complete the SF330 form?

Response: A Joint Venture is considered as a separate legal entity from either firm. As such, the Joint Venture would complete an SF330 reflecting the combined resources and skills of both firms.

19. Is current experience defined as “within the last five years”?

Response: Current experience is generally considered to be projects within the last five years. Current experience that is more recent will be given greater weight by the Government and will enhance a firm’s ability to become one of the higher rated firms. Correspondingly, the older a firm’s current experience, the less weight it will be given by the Government, and this could affect a firm’s overall rating. With that said, a firm’s most recent experience may not be the most relevant to the criteria announced in the FedBizOpps notice. Offerors are responsible for presenting that current experience which they possess that demonstrates that they are among the most highly qualified offerors.

20. TAC’s solicitation requires each team must be willing to work in all areas/countries in the Area of Responsibility (AOR). Does this mean that each team member (Prime, JV Partner, subs) must be willing to work in all areas? Or does the total team must work in all areas?

Response: No, each member of the team does not need to work in all areas of TAC’s AOR. However, it is the responsibility of the Prime or JV members of a firm to possess sufficient personnel resources (including by means of subcontractors) so that they can provide the specified personnel required for a task order in all areas of TAC’s AOR at any given time during the contract duration.

21. Should the Design Quality Management Plan be a separate paginated attachment to Section H or incorporated within Section H?

Response: The Government will accept either method of submitting the Design Quality Management Plan. The only consideration is that if the document is attached to Section H, it should be noted as such in Section H so that it can be located during the evaluations. Note that this document is limited to five pages per the criteria listed in the FedBizOpps announcement.

22. What is the basis for determining whether there will be three awards or more?

Response: The number of awards is dependent upon the number of most highly qualified proposals that are received by TAC. If only three proposals are rated as most highly qualified, then the maximum number of awards that can be made is three. However, if more than three proposals are rated as highly qualified, then potentially more awards can be made. The number of awards will be directly influenced by the quality of the technical responses received.

23. What is the basis for selecting between three and six awards for this solicitation? Why were these numbers selected?

Response: This range enhances competition within the individual task orders that will be issued under the new contracts. The Government is looking to promote competition within its task order process. This range also should ensure that there will be firms interested in each task order that TAC releases. With the Fair Opportunity Process firms can decline interest for valid reasons. With a range between three and six, the Government should be assured that more than one firm will submit a technical response for each task order.

24. Is a prime A-E firm for this subject contract (W912ER-08-R-0016) conflicted from being a prime on the W912ER-08-R-0029 TAC Construction and Services IDIQ's?

Response: Firms that are selected for this contract who perform design actions under a task order may be disqualified from competing for construction task orders under the TAC Construction and Services IDIQ's, if the task order being competed relates to the design performed by the prime A-E firm under this A-E IDC. Please note that these inquiries are highly fact specific and the Government cannot give an answer that will address all possible situations. Offerors and their teammates are encouraged to consider possible disqualification from construction work in determining whether to propose on this A-E IDC solicitation.

25. Is a teaming partner (subcontractor) for this subject contract (W912ER-08-R-0016) conflicted from being a prime on the W912ER-08-R-0029 TAC Construction and Services IDIQ's?

Response: A teaming partner may be disqualified from competing for construction task orders under the TAC Construction and Services IDIQ's, if the task order being competed relates to the design action which involved the participation of the teaming partner under this A-E IDC. Please note that these inquiries are highly fact specific and the Government cannot give an answer that will address all possible situations. Offerors and their teammates are encouraged to consider possible disqualification from construction work in determining whether to propose on this A-E IDC solicitation.

26. In general, does being a part of a team on this contract, W912ER-08-R-0016, cause any type of conflict of interest with proposing and doing work under the W912ER-08-R-0029 (TAC Construction and Services IDIQ's)?

Response: It is possible that a conflict of interest could be created, such that a teammate will be disqualified from participation in work under the TAC Construction and Services IDIQ's. As stated in our answers to questions 24 and 25, these inquiries are highly fact specific, and the Government cannot give an answer that will address all possible situations. Offerors and their teammates are encouraged to consider possible disqualification from construction work in determining whether to propose on this A-E IDC solicitation.

27. Will the pricing for a proposal to select an A-E firm be based on contract line items embedded in the FedBizOpps criteria?

Response: No. This is a Brooks Act selection and price is not part of the evaluation criteria to determine the most highly qualified offerors.

28. When will the actual A-E IDC proposal be out, and when will it be due? When will the selection be announced?

Response: The FedBizOpps announcement was issued on 1 April 2008 with a response date of 16 May 2008. The selections are expected to be announced later this year.

29. In the TAC overview it was stated that TAC is interested in firms with experience in all areas of Africa. However, TAC's AOR does not include all areas of Africa. How will TAC evaluate experience in Africa that is outside of its AOR?

Response: All of Africa is within TAC's AOR. As stated in the FedBizOpps announcement, TAC is "responsible for execution of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission in Africa, the Middle East, the Arabian Gulf States, portions of Southwest Asia and any country where TAC is designated as the Program Manager." Please see the geographic [area map](#) (*link to the map*) on the website to get a clear picture of TAC's AOR.

30. Criteria B of the solicitation includes cost engineering function code - 17. We note that function code 17 refers to corrosion engineer. Please clarify which discipline we should include.

Response: The correct function code for Cost Engineering is 18 not 17 as listed in the FedBizOpps. A modification to the synopsis to correct this issue will be forthcoming.

31. How and by whom is the construction cost that would require redesign determined?

Response: For Military Construction and Operations and Maintenance projects, the "Design within Construction Cost Limitation" will be established as a percentage of the Program Amount shown in the DD Form 1391. During the planning and concept phase the Program Amount for the design-within-cost figure will be verified by the designer and TAC to ensure the scope and design-within-cost figure is consistent. For all other projects outside of Military Construction and Operations and Maintenance, the Program Amount for the design-within-cost figure will be established in the planning phase and confirmed by the designer and TAC during the concept design.

32. If it is determined by construction bids, when is the redesign done, i.e., after award or before rebidding?

Response: If required, any redesign effort would be accomplished prior to the re-bidding phase.

33. What measures are in place to assess the effects of collusive bidding? Underestimation of cost by TAC?

Response: The Department of Justice or Federal Trade Commission would be contacted to investigate, and if necessary, enforce all current laws if any collusion was suspected. Regarding cost estimates, the designer and TAC will together verify the practicality of the construction estimates during the concept design phase to ensure the scope and cost are compatible; this will mitigate any underestimation of cost.

34. Do we need to comply with local laws for access to various project sites?

Response: A-E firms need to comply with the laws of the host nation, as well as the rules, regulations and procedures of the cognizant United States activity (e.g., CENTCOM or Department of State) for the given country.

35. Please confirm that designs will have to be provided in both MicroStation Version 8 (or higher) and AutoCADD 2004 (or higher)?

Response: Confirmed. The selected A-E firms should be capable of producing drawings using both MicroStation and AutoCADD per the FedBizOpps announcement.

36. Building Codes: What will be the standard in TAC's AOR, and would they be different in each country?

Response: We follow US design codes for all Military Construction projects and for any facilities to be occupied by U.S. forces. On Foreign Military Sales projects and other facilities to be used by foreign nationals, codes may vary. These are determined by the customer and may vary from one project to another.

37. Will firms that are currently part of TAC's nine CENTCOM IDIQ's, and may be part of TAC's future Construction and Services IDIQ's, be allowed to propose on this contract, W912ER-08-R-0016?

Response: Current firms of TAC's nine CENTCOM IDIQ's, or future TAC Construction and Services IDIQ firms, may be disqualified from competing for construction task orders under the Construction and Services IDIQ's, if the task order being competed relates to design actions which involve the participation of the firm under this A-E IDC. Please note that these inquiries are highly fact specific and the Government cannot give an answer that will address all possible situations. Offerors are encouraged to consider possible disqualification from construction work in determining whether to propose on this A-E IDC solicitation.

38. Can you publish approximate averages or medians for days from design to occupancy for each of the major experience categories?

Response: Each of the major experience categories includes projects of varying sizes and durations, and many projects fall into more than one experience category, so we can't provide meaningful data regarding typical design-to-occupancy durations.

39. Will the TAC future work forecast presented by Mr. Roger Vogler be performed via Task Orders under this new A-E IDC, outside of this contract, or both?

Response: The future projects briefed by Mr. Roger Vogler will be accomplished via a combination of in-house design staff, other USACE districts, and use of the A-E IDCs. We haven't determined design strategy for individual projects in the out-years.

40. What does TAC do to ensure the details that firms input in SPOT are not accessed by insurgents or others who would jeopardize or harm our people including our security firms?

Response: The SPOT access is a secure site managed by the Army. It is located at: <https://spot.altess.army.mil>.

41. Do subcontractors registered in SPOT also see LOAs for primes?

Response: Normally, no. However, it depends on the role and responsibilities established within the system. For instance, the administrative person may be registered to have permissions within the system to view all LOAs. For more information on SPOT user Roles and Descriptions, go to the CENTCOM Website at: <http://www2.centcom.mil/sites/contracts/default.aspx>.

42. Can subcontractors with SPOT load their own personnel under the prime's SPOT and AKO sponsorship?

Response: It is possible. It depends on how companies set the permissions within the system. For more information on SPOT user Roles and Descriptions, go to the CENTCOM Website at: <http://www2.centcom.mil/sites/contracts/default.aspx>.

43. Current Defense Base Act (DBA) insurance rates are in effect until 30 Sep 2008. When will new rates be released?

Response: USACE is currently working on a follow-on procurement. We anticipate that the new contract will be in place at least one month before the end of the current period of performance. Any information regarding DBA Insurance rates will be provided by the Government so offerors know what insurance rates to cost in their proposals.

44. In the past, there has been a pre-pay premium for DBA insurance. Is a pre-pay premium still in effect?

Response: A-E firms who contract with the Corps of Engineers should not have to pay anything to obtain an Insurance Policy. CNA submits an invoice to the Company and they have 30 days to pay their premium. The only times that a Company may have to pre-pay their insurance premium might be if they were in arrears previously or if they have had their policy cancelled for non-payment on a prior policy.

45. Regarding Small Business participation with no overseas experience. What strategy will your office have to share the pie? Or is it the Big Firms who will always be your partners with different faces?

Response: TAC encourages the use of small business in its acquisition processes. We have a vested interest in seeing small businesses succeed. For this particular contract action, because of its high dollar amount, TAC is anticipating that small businesses will participate by joint venturing with a larger firm, partner together to develop a small business conglomerate that can handle the dollar threshold, or subcontract with a large firm to provide one of the experience categories listed in the FedBizOpps announcement. Small businesses should note that if the contract awards are made to other than a small business, then each selected firm must provide an approved small business subcontracting plan. This plan will be reviewed by TAC to ensure that each firm is including small business concerns in its task order assignments.

46. Should A-E firms provide one combined Architect-Engineer Qualifications form (Part II of Standard Form 330) for its entire team or should they provide one form for each joint venture partner or subcontractor?

Response: To assist our review of your capabilities, you are requested to submit the Architect-Engineer Qualifications form in accordance with your team structure and the availability of the listed resources. As a minimum, each A-E firm should submit an Architect-Engineer Qualifications form for itself. Separate forms may be submitted for branch offices that are part of your team structure, providing these resources will be made available for this contract. Similarly, separate forms will be acceptable from joint venture partners and subcontractors providing that the resources listed will be available for this project. It is each firm's responsibility to demonstrate that the resources listed will be available for this contract. Offerors who fail to demonstrate this will not be rated as highly as firms that do. A modification to the synopsis to include the above response will be forthcoming.

47. Paragraph 9 on page 4 of the Standard Form 330 instruction sheet instructs A-E firms to list no more than 20 disciplines in the “Employees by Discipline” portion of Part II, Architect-Engineer Qualifications, of Standard Form 330. However, the synopsis from the FedBizOpps announcement lists more than 20 disciplines. How should we reply?

Response: The FedBizOpps announcement lists 21 disciplines and 19 Function Codes. Two of the listed disciplines do not have a Function Code; Office Engineer and Project Engineer. Consequently, firms should list the 19 listed Function Codes, and their associated disciplines, from the FedBizOpps announcement in their Architect-Engineer Qualifications form(s) and note the number of employees per code/discipline. As for the remaining two disciplines without codes, firms should place this information in the “Other Employees” section of the form. To assist TAC with evaluating the number of available Office Engineers and Project Engineers, it is asked that firms provide two numbers in this block; one for each of the two disciplines, i.e., 5/10, with the first number representing the number of office engineers.

48. Are the Office Engineer and Project Engineer positions noted in the FedBizOpps announcement primarily required at the selected A-E firm’s home office to provide support or are they expected to be forward deployed to a country in TAC’s AOR?

Response: It is possible that these positions may be used at both locations, home and in the field. However, it is anticipated that the majority of personnel in these two disciplines will be forward-deployed in support of the Government’s construction management actions.